

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I wish to inquire of the leader the schedule of the House for next week.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, the House will convene on Monday at 10:30 a.m. for morning hour and 12 p.m. for legislative business. We will likely consider several measures under suspension of the rules. A final list of those bills will be sent to Members' offices by the end of the week. We will also consider the fiscal year 2004 agricultural appropriations bill on Monday. Any votes called on these measures will be rolled until 6:30 p.m.

For Tuesday and the balance of the week, we may consider additional legislation under suspension of the rules. We are also expected to consider several bills under a rule including the fiscal year 2004 through 2005 State Department authorization bill; H.R. 2122, the Project BioShield Act of 2003; the fiscal year 2004 Department of Interior appropriations bill; and H.R. 2210, the School Readiness Act of 2003.

Finally, Members should be aware that on Thursday Prime Minister Tony Blair will address a joint session of Congress at 4 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and will be happy to answer any questions he may have.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for responding, but I would like to continue to yield to him to find out if next week we are bringing up the Head Start reauthorization bill, and do you expect to have an open rule on this bill.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, I would defer to the Committee on Rules, but can assure the gentleman that the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) and his colleagues will work hard to address the concerns Members bring to that committee.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, continuing to yield and to inquire, on Medicare prescription drugs, when does the gentleman expect we will appoint conferees on this legislation?

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for continuing to yield. We hope to appoint conferees to the bill on Monday and look forward to working fast and furiously on this issue.

In fact, I believe there have already been some informal conversations across the Capitol on this issue. Having said that, we do not intend to create any artificial time lines and, instead, will work as long and as hard as we can to get the best possible project.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. If this does occur on Monday, as the gentleman stated, when during the day would that

be scheduled? What time of day would it be scheduled?

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it would most likely be after the ag appropriation bill in late afternoon.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, when does the gentleman think we might see a conference report? Would it be before the August recess?

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Again, Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, I would defer to those who are involved in the conference. We are not going to set any artificial time lines. We want to make sure we have the best possible product, and so we will move ahead on Monday with the conferees, and certainly after next week we can reassess where we are time-wise.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would continue to yield to my friend from Michigan on the child tax credit. When does he expect the conference committee to meet to report out a conference report? It has now been 27 days, 22 hours-plus since we appointed conferees. Does the gentleman have any idea when we can expect a report coming to this House?

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. I thank the gentleman from Georgia for continuing to yield.

As we understand, there are some differences, and we hope the Senate conferees can quickly realize the sensible approach of the House and allow us to move a conference report before the end of July. Certainly that would be our hope.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to yield to my friend from Michigan to inquire about trade agreements. Does the gentleman anticipate that we may have votes before the August recess on any trade agreements?

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I understand that both the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on the Judiciary held markups of the proposed Chilean-Singapore trade agreements this week. And while we have a significant amount of work to do in the next 2 weeks, I am hopeful we can find some time to consider this legislation before August. But, again, we will not set any artificial time lines, although we do hope that can happen.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Let me say to my friend from Michigan, Mr. Speaker, that it seems like we are going to be very busy during the next few days before the August recess.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, we will have a 5-day work-week certainly both weeks before the recess.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend for responding to the questions.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JULY 14, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that

when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, July 14, 2003, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER TO DECLARE A RECESS ON THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2003, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING IN JOINT MEETING THE RIGHT HONORABLE TONY BLAIR, PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it may be in order at any time on Thursday, July 17, 2003, for the Speaker to declare a recess, subject to the call of the Chair, for the purpose of receiving in joint meeting the Right Honorable Tony Blair, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 1474, CHECK TRUNCATION ACT OF 2003

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1474) to facilitate check truncation by authorizing substitute checks, to foster innovation in the check collection system without mandating receipt of checks in electronic form, and to improve the overall efficiency of the Nation's payments system, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and request a conference with the Senate thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio? The Chair hears none and, without objection, appoints the following conferees:

Messrs. OXLEY, BACHUS, LATOURETTE, Ms. HART, and Messrs. TIBERI, FRANK of Massachusetts, SANDERS, and FORD.

There was no objection.